



**Gary A. Brown**  
President Pro Tem  
Detroit City Council



February 16, 2010

Dear Detroit Citizen,

I have been serving as the Detroit City Council President Pro Tem for nearly two months. Our new council is representing unity and legislative leadership that has long been needed when addressing the challenges facing our City. Briefly, I would like to share a few updates.

**Budget.** It is council's number one responsibility to take every opportunity to reduce the City's budget deficit. Last year, the administration reduced City non-union employee pay and in January City Council supported the elected official's 10-percent pay cut. We must work together to avoid receivership, therefore contractors also need to exercise cost-cutting measures. Toward this end, I recently voted NO on a renewal of a quasi-governmental agency contract and an independent accounting services contract.

**Public Safety.** As chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee, with responsibility for police, fire, water, public works, public lighting and dangerous buildings, it is clear that there is much work to be done. I have been working with Mayor Bing and Detroit Police Department (DPD) leaders on securing a secondary employment program, which will bring more patrol officers to the neighborhoods without added costs to the City. Hopefully this program will be instituted during this quarter.

**Vacant Housing.** The number of vacant houses is not only a blight issue, it is also a major safety concern in our neighborhoods. The mayor's office has \$14 Million in federal stimulus funds to demolish 2,000 houses this year, which will be the most dangerous structures. I have also identified \$21 Million in insurance funds from burnt-out houses and other incidents that can be applied to support the demolition program. I am working with the Planning & Development Department to create an effective and efficient plan to use these two funding sources.

**Water.** I understand Detroiters are suffering. The City of Detroit Department of Human Services (DHS) has a Detroit Residential Water Assistance Program (DRWAP) for low-income residents. Detroit residents are eligible if they have a shut off or pending shut off based on the following: 1) They are at or below 200-percent of current federal poverty levels; and 2) They are living in a single-family dwelling and responsible for the water bill. In order to seek assistance, you may view the required documentation and steps to submit, by visiting [www.garybrown4detroit.com](http://www.garybrown4detroit.com) or calling my office at 313.224.2450.

The foregoing areas address several challenges we are grappling with on behalf of our residents. I will maintain my focus on the issues that directly affect the safety and well-being of all Detroiters, while tackling the City's dire budgetary situation.

**I ask for your continued support and patience in these efforts.**

Respectfully,

Gary A. Brown  
President Pro Tem  
Detroit City Council

City Council President Pro Tem Gary A. Brown has a proven track record of dedicated service to the City of Detroit. As your councilman he is providing leadership, accountability and transparency in city government. With a record of being a consensus builder, he is helping to restore integrity and unity to council. President Pro Tem Brown is working collaboratively with colleagues, the mayor, other levels of government and business and community organizations to address the most significant challenges facing Detroit. President Pro Tem Brown promises to be your champion and humble servant on issues that matter to you, and to be a vigilant custodian of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Visit [www.garybrown4detroit.com](http://www.garybrown4detroit.com) to keep posted to the Councilman's efforts, meeting agendas and learn about available resources.